

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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TOSEC 994

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REUTER ITEM 0422

QUOTE TEL AVIV, MARCH 23, REUTER-- ISRAEL'S AFTERNOON
NEWSPAPERS SAID TODAY PRESIDENT FORD SENT A SHARP NOTE
TO PRIME YITZHAK RABIN THURSDAY ACCUSING ISRAEL OF
TAKING UP TOO TOUGH A BARGAINING POSITION.

THE NOTE, WHICH SHOCKED AND ANGERED CABINET MINISTERS
AT A CABINET MEETING CALLED FRIDAY TO DISCUSS IT,
WARNED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED.

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOTE WAS SENT TO ISRAEL AFTER
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER REPORTED FROM
ASWAN ON THE HARD LINE ADOPTED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
ANWAR SADAT, THE CORRESPONDENTS SAID.

THEY ADDED THAT DR. KISSINGER ADMITTED HE HAD INITIATED
THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE, BUT THE TEXT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN
WRITTEN IN WASHINGTON IN STRONGER TERMS THAN HE
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ANTICIPATED.

THE CORRESPONDENTS SAID THAT THE CABINET MINISTERS HAD
REMAINED UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT ISRAEL COULD
NOT GIVE WAY IN THE FACE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S REFUSAL
TO GUARANTEE HIS COUNTRY'S NON-BELLIGERENCY.
REUTER 0422. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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